

The Evening Star, Sat. Feb. 25, 1967

Assassination 'Solved,' Garrison Now Asserts

NEW ORLEANS, La., (AP)—Dist. Atty. Jim Garrison says death is the only escape for those he believes plotted to assassinate President John F. Kennedy.

"The only way they are going to get away from us is to kill themselves," Garrison said yesterday.

His statement to newsmen apparently was a reference to the death of David W. Ferrie, a man Garrison tagged as a prime witness in his controversial probe.

The district attorney seemed undaunted by evidence reported by the coroner, Dr. Nicholas Chetta, who said the chemical analysis of Ferrie's body showed "no evidence whatsoever of suicide or murder."

Moreover, Garrison claimed his staff solved the assassination case weeks ago.

"I wouldn't say this if we

didn't have evidence beyond the shadow of a doubt," he added.

"We know the key individuals, the cities involved and how it was done."

That was the first time the word "solved" had been used by Garrison.

But he said this did not mean arrests were imminent, that he merely used a different word to state what he had said earlier: Arrests will be made and convictions obtained.

Arrests might be months away, said Garrison, adding in the exaggerated style he has adopted in daily exchanges with newsmen, "It might be 30 years."

Backed by Private Funds

The investigation was made public when a New Orleans newspaper obtained—from public records—a list of agents, trips they made, and the money spent in seeking clues. Garrison has said the published reports have hampered his investigation.

Garrison's staff now is armed with a private bankroll disclosed yesterday at a luncheon to which 50 New Orleans businessmen had been invited. The group, taking the name "Truth and Consequences," promised the district attorney funds which could amount to \$50,000 a month or more.

The private fund will enable Garrison to dispatch investigators to any place he desires without resorting to public monies, thereby revealing the momentum of the probe.

Connally Is Dubious

"This was done to express our confidence in our district attorney and to state we will have full confidence in his ability, his integrity, and the integrity of his office," said Joseph Rault Jr., one of three businessmen instrumental in organizing the support.

In Austin, Tex., meanwhile, Gov. John Connally said he has personal doubts that Garrison's investigation will produce "anything new or revealing."

The governor, seriously wounded by rifle fire while

riding in the same car with Kennedy in Dallas Nov. 22, 1963, was asked about the probe at a news conference.

"I am confident in my own mind that the FBI and investigative agencies went into the state and concerned themselves with these individuals," Connally said.

LIE ADMITTED, U.S. FILES SHOW

By United Press International

A private investigator admitted to the Secret Service that he lied when he said he knew of a connection between David W. Ferrie and presidential assassin Lee Harvey Oswald, according to government documents.

Ferrie, who was found dead in his New Orleans apartment Wednesday, was named by investigator Jack S. Martin as the man who allegedly trained Oswald in using weapons with telescopic sights and who might have been lined up as a get-away pilot.

The report, on file at the National Archives, asserted that these allegations, and others, are "without foundation," and that Martin admitted to both the Secret Service and the FBI that he concocted them.

According to the report filed by Secret Service agents Anthony E. Gerrets and John W. Rice, Martin said he called New Orleans Assistant Dist. Atty. Herman S. Kohlman during a drinking bout on Nov. 24, 1963, two days after President Kennedy was assassinated.

The Secret Service report added that Martin had a reputation in New Orleans of furnishing "incorrect information to law enforcement officers, attorneys, etc."